



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/667,056

09/22/2003

Sean McFerran

1001.1708101

7830

28075 7590 04/27/2010
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 NICOLLET AVENUE
SUITE 800
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420

EXAMINER

GRAY, PHILLIP A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3767

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/27/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/667,056	Applicant(s) MCFERRAN, SEAN	
	Examiner Phillip Gray	Art Unit 3767	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/8/2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 15-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 15-17 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to applicant's communication of 1/8/2010.
Currently claims 13,15-28 are pending and claims 13, 15-17, 21-28 stand rejected.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/8/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants argue that Alman fails to teach a "slit less then the length of the polymer sheath". Applicants further argue concerning the new claims that "neither document teaches a slit extending at an angle such that the slit has a depth measured from the inner surface to the outer surface of the polymer sheath that is greater than the thickness of the wall of the polymer sheath, wherein the slit is defined between a first edge of the polymer sheath and a second edge of the polymer sheath facing the first edge, wherein each of the first edge and the second edge extend from the outer surface to the inner surface of the polymer sheath, and wherein the first edge and the second edge are in contact with each other when no guidewire is extended through the passage".

It is examiners position that Allman is not being used to teach the slit length, Pfenninger is discloses this slit length less then the sheath length. Pfenninger shows a slit length less then the sheath length in figure 3 below.

Concerning the second argument, it is examiners position that the Allman slit does satisfy all these limitations.

Concerning i) a slit extending at an angle such that the slit has a depth measured from the inner surface to the outer surface of the polymer sheath that is greater than the thickness of the wall of the polymer sheath, both Pfenninger and Allman teach this as would any slit on an angle less than 90 degrees to the outer surface (see Pfenninger figure 3 and Allman figure 4B or 4C).

Concerning ii) wherein the slit is defined between a first edge of the polymer sheath and a second edge of the polymer sheath facing the first edge, wherein each of the first edge and the second edge extend from the outer surface to the inner surface of the polymer sheath, and wherein the first edge and the second edge are in contact with each other when no guidewire is extended through the passage, it is examiners position that this is shown in Allman again at figures 4B and 4C.

Concerning the newly added claim language where the slit extends at an angle less than 90 degrees to the outer surface of the sheath again note Pfenninger at figure 3 and Allman at figure 4B and 4C.

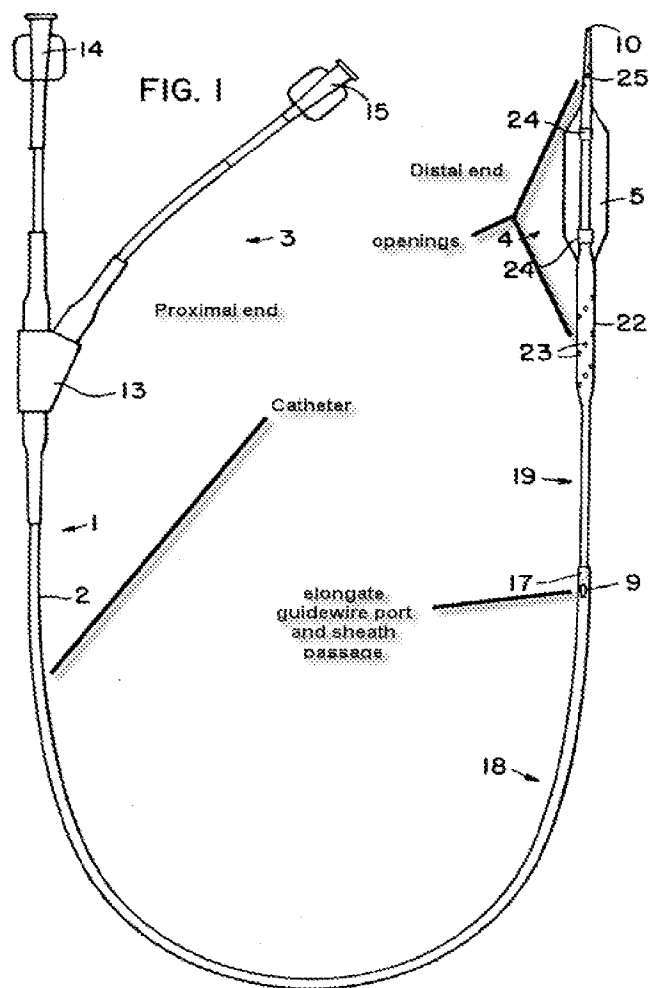
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

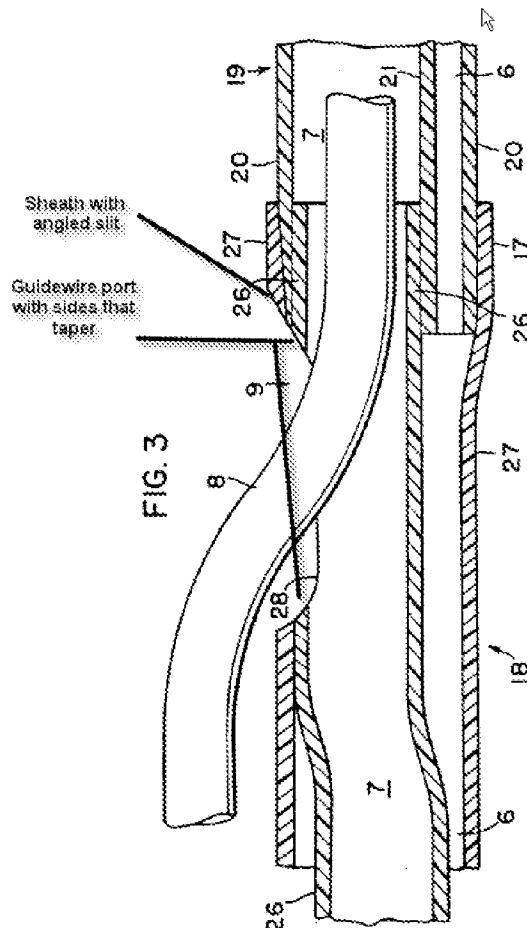
Claims 13 and 15-17, and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pfenninger (U.S. Patent Number 5,306,247) in view of Allman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,346,093).

Pfenninger discloses a catheter (near 2) comprising an elongate shaft having a distal and proximal end fluidly connected to an opening (25/23) at the distal end of the elongate shaft, an elongate guidewire port (near 9), and a polymer sheet with a passage over the guidewire port (see marked up figure 1)



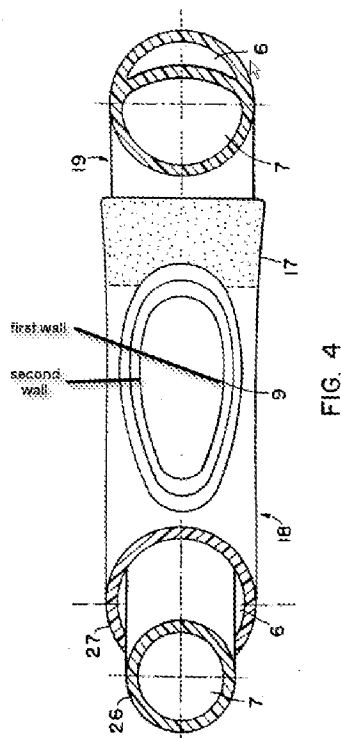
Art Unit: 3767

Further note the Sheath (27), angled slit see figure below, guidewire port (near 9 or 28) with tapered walls (see marked up figure 3 below).



Concerning claim 15-16, see near 27 in figure 3.

Concerning claim 23 see marked up figure 4 below. Concerning claim 24 note slit length is larger then port length. Concerning claim 25-26 note port near 28 tapered edges as in figures 3 and 4.



Pfenninger discloses the claimed invention except for the longitudinal angled slit configured to permit guidewire access through the guidewire port while maintaining a substantially fluid tight in use when no guide wire is provided. Allman teaches that it is known to use a longitudinal angled slit configured to permit guidewire access through the guidewire port while maintaining a substantially fluid tight in use when no guide wire is provided as set forth in paragraphs at column 8 lines 1-46 also see slit 118 in figure 4 and 4b or near 134 in figure 4c to provide and allow a guidewire to be radially slid into or out of the sheath assembly. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as taught by Pfenninger with a longitudinal angled slit as taught by Allman, since such a modification would

provide the system with a longitudinal slit for providing and allowing a guidewire to be radially slid into or out of the sheath assembly.

Concerning claim 21 and 22, Pfenninger discloses the claimed invention except for the length of the guide wire port is at least six times greater than the width. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the guidewire port have a length six times greater than the width, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

Concerning claims 20-28 see response to applicants arguments above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-20 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip Gray whose telephone number is (571)272-7180. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Simons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3767

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phillip Gray/

Examiner, Art Unit 3767

/Kevin C. Sirmons/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3767